

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated January 11, 2006, in which Claims 1-3 were rejected. Applicant has amended Claims 1-3. Accordingly, Claims 1-3 are pending in this application, and are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,311,032 (*Montoro*). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present invention provides an apparatus for accessing a storage phosphor medium disposed within a CR reader. The access area can be exposed to the ambient environment as the storage phosphor is transported along the path. An advantage of the present invention is that, should the medium becomes lodged or jammed within the reader, an operator may employ access area 22 (see, for example, Figure 3) to either remove/access the medium from the reader or make adjustments so that the screen may be returned to the cassette. Since the screen has already been scanned prior to being transported along a path to the access area, no image information is lost from the medium. This is described in the Specification at Page 4, lines 13-23.

The present invention's access area 22 is not an erase area. As shown in Figure 3, the present invention's erase area 18 is disposed intermediate access area 22 and receiving station 14. No such access area is shown or described in *Montoro*. Rather, *Montoro* describes an erase area employing erase lamp 88 to erase the medium.

To clarify the distinction between access area 22 and erase area 18, Applicants have amended Claims 1-3 to include the feature of an erase area. As amended, the access area is clearly distinguished from the erase area.

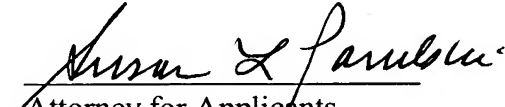
Claims 1-3 are not anticipated by *Montoro*, and accordingly, these claims are believed to be patentable.

Should the Examiner consider that additional amendments are necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, the favor is requested of a telephone call to the undersigned counsel for the purpose of discussing such amendments.

For the reasons set forth above, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and favorable action are respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees in connection with this communication to Eastman Kodak Company Deposit Account No. 05-0225.

Respectfully submitted,



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